

## Lens System Analysis

Last time, finished survey of optical elements  
ray diagrams, mirrors, stops, prisms

Also, analyzed simple lens system:  
two thin lenses separated by  $d$

Analyzed by iterating thin lens equation  
image of first lens = object of second

Today, develop a better way

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Outline:

- Ray matrix method
- Thick lens formalism

Next time: study some real systems

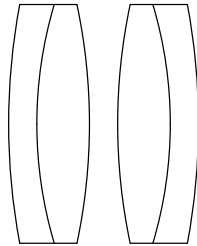
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## Ray Matrices (Hecht 6.2.1)

Good lens systems typically have 4-8 elements

Individual elements not always thin

Plössl eyepiece:



Common in telescopes

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To analyze:

- (a) Find image from first surface  
= object of second
- (b) Find image from second surface  
= object of third

...

Iterate until finished

Analytical solution useless for  $>$  two surfaces

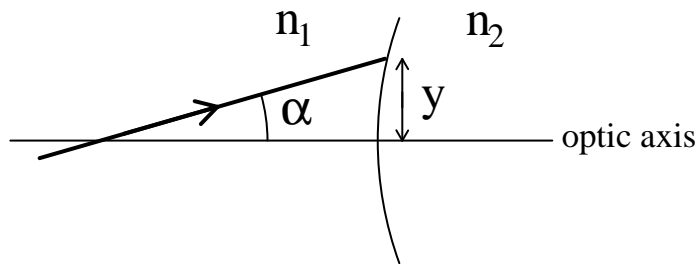
Computer solution OK

- cumbersome to program
- little insight

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Better way:

Consider single ray at some interface



Described by two parameters:

angle  $\alpha$       height  $y$

Can write as vector  $\begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ y \end{bmatrix}$

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Note:  $\begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ y \end{bmatrix}$  not a “normal” vector

- units are different
- $(\alpha, y)$  not coordinates of anything

Can use just like a vector anyway

Better definition:  $\mathbf{v} = \begin{bmatrix} n\alpha \\ y \end{bmatrix}$

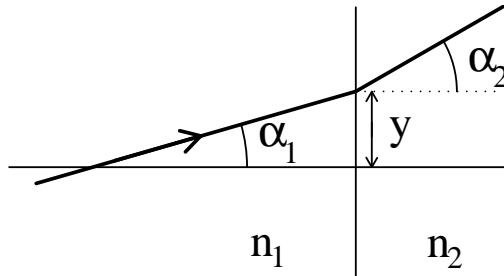
Optics books:  $\begin{bmatrix} n\alpha \\ y \end{bmatrix}$       Laser books:  $\begin{bmatrix} y \\ \alpha \end{bmatrix}$

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Strategy:

Determine how  $v$  propagates through system

First, plane interface:



Paraxial limit:  $\alpha \ll 1$

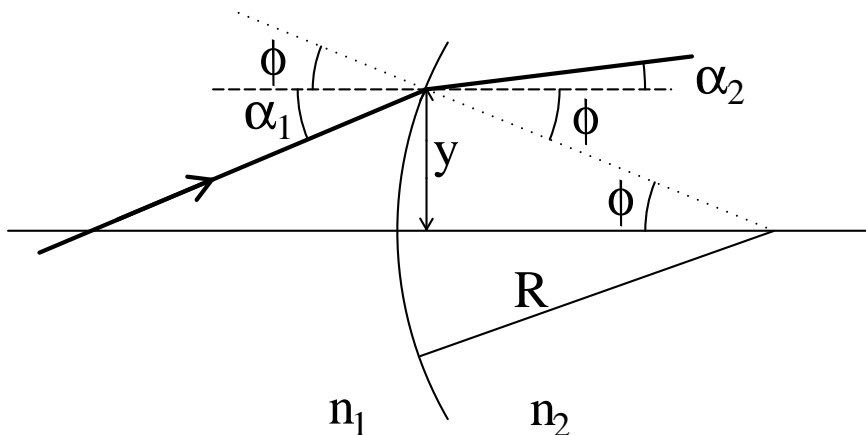
Snell's Law says  $n_1 \alpha_1 = n_2 \alpha_2$

At boundary,  $y$  doesn't change

With optics convention,  $v$  is constant!

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Consider curved interface:



Snell's Law:  $n_1(\alpha_1 + \phi) = n_2(\alpha_2 + \phi)$

with  $\phi = \frac{y}{R}$

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So  $n_2\alpha_2 = n_1\alpha_1 + (n_1 - n_2)\phi$

$$= n_1\alpha_1 + \frac{n_1 - n_2}{R}y$$

Define  $\mathcal{D} = \frac{n_2 - n_1}{R} =$  power of surface

Like power  $= 1/f$  for thin lens  
unit = diopter

Then  $n_2\alpha_2 = n_1\alpha_1 - \mathcal{D}y$

Again,  $y$  same on either side

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Linear relationship: can write in matrix form:

$$\begin{bmatrix} n_1\alpha_1 \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\mathcal{D} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} n_2\alpha_2 \\ y \end{bmatrix}$$

or

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathcal{R}\mathbf{v}_2$$

$\mathcal{R}$  = refraction matrix

Note, if curvature  $R \rightarrow \infty$ , matrix  $\mathcal{R} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\mathbf{v}_1 = \mathbf{v}_2, \text{ as before}$$

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For thin lens in air, use  $\mathcal{D} = 1/f$

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{lens}} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1/f \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Question:** What is the matrix for a spherical mirror with radius  $R$ ?

So, effect of lens = matrix multiplication

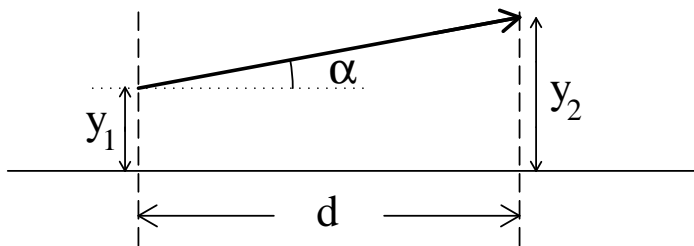
Handle many lenses by multiplying matrices

Computationally easy!

But also need ray propagation between surfaces

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Free propagation:



Paraxial limit:  $y_2 = y_1 + \alpha d$  and  $n\alpha = \text{constant}$

$$\begin{bmatrix} n_2 \alpha_2 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ d/n & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} n_1 \alpha_1 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{or } \mathbf{v}_2 = \mathcal{T} \mathbf{v}_1$$

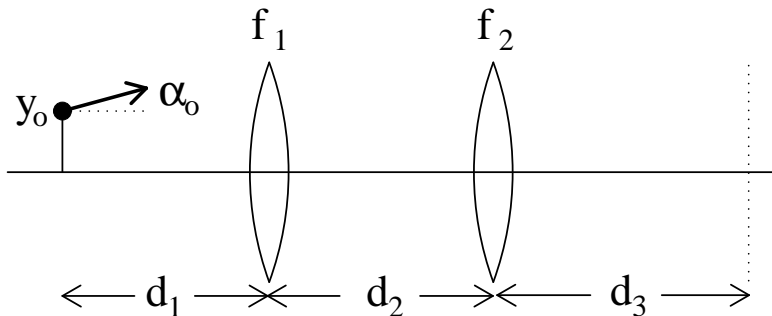
Transfer matrix  $\mathcal{T}$

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In general,  $\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{T}$  called *ray matrices*

Multiply to get matrix for complete system

Example:



Consider ray starting at object:  $\mathbf{v}_o = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_o \\ y_o \end{bmatrix}$

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Just before first lens:  $\mathbf{v} = \mathcal{T}(d_1)\mathbf{v}_o$

Just after first lens:  $\mathbf{v} = \mathcal{R}(f_1)\mathcal{T}(d_1)\mathbf{v}_o$

...

At final plane:  $\mathbf{v}_f = \mathcal{T}(d_3)\mathcal{R}(f_2)\mathcal{T}(d_2)\mathcal{R}(f_1)\mathcal{T}(d_1)\mathbf{v}_o$

Note reversed order!

Define  $\mathbf{v}_f = \mathcal{M}\mathbf{v}_o$

$\mathcal{M}$  = system matrix

relates rays at output to rays at input

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For simple system, can get  $\mathcal{M}$  analytically

For any system, easy to get  $\mathcal{M}$  numerically  
like tracing all possible rays at once

Generally write

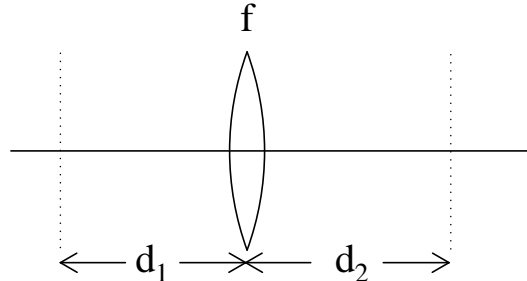
$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \quad \left( \text{Hecht: } \begin{bmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

Coefficients  $(A, B, C, D)$  completely define system  
(in paraxial limit)

Ray matrices sometimes called “ABCD matrices”

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Example:



Say  $d_1 = 10$  cm,  $f = 25$  cm,  $d_2 = 20$  cm

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then } \mathcal{M} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 20 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -0.04 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 10 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 20 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0.06 & -0.04 \\ 10 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} 0.6 & -0.04 \text{ cm}^{-1} \\ 22 \text{ cm} & 0.2 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

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Analytically, get

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \frac{d_1}{f} & -\frac{1}{f} \\ d_1 + d_2 - \frac{d_1 d_2}{f} & 1 - \frac{d_2}{f} \end{bmatrix}$$

Supposed to know everything about system

ask: given  $s_o = d_1$ , where is image formed?

Imaging system:  $y_{\text{out}}$  depends on  $y_{\text{in}}$ , not  $\alpha_{\text{in}}$

$$\text{Compare } \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ y \end{bmatrix}_{\text{out}} = \begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \\ y \end{bmatrix}_{\text{in}}$$

Need  $C = 0$

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In example  $C = d_1 + d_2 - \frac{d_1 d_2}{f}$

So need  $d_1 + d_2 = \frac{d_1 d_2}{f}$

$$\text{or } \frac{1}{d_1} + \frac{1}{d_2} = \frac{1}{f}$$

Works!

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Can apply to any system

Procedure:

- (1) Calculate vertex-to-vertex matrix  $\mathcal{M}_v$   
= just before first surface to just after last

$$\text{Say } \mathcal{M}_v = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$$

- (2) Given object distance  $s_o$ , calculate

$$\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{T}(s_i) \mathcal{M}_v \mathcal{T}(s_o)$$

for arbitrary  $s_i$ :

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} a + bs_o & b \\ as_i + bs_0s_i + c + ds_o & d + bs_i \end{bmatrix}$$

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- (3) Solve for  $C = 0$ :

$$as_i + bs_0s_i + c + ds_o = 0$$

gives

$$\boxed{s_i = -\frac{c + ds_o}{a + bs_o}}$$

Also magnification  $m = y_i/y_o$

but if  $C = 0$ , then  $y_i = Dy_o$

$$\Rightarrow m = D = \boxed{d + bs_i}$$

This is really powerful!

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Explore imaging further...

But first, a general property:

Any ray matrix has determinant = 1

$$\det \mathcal{M} \equiv \begin{vmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{vmatrix} = AD - BC = 1$$

Proof:

- Know  $\det \mathcal{R} = 1$  and  $\det \mathcal{T} = 1$
- Matrix property:  
 $\det(\mathcal{M}_1 \mathcal{M}_2) = \det(\mathcal{M}_1) \det(\mathcal{M}_2)$
- Ray matrix  $\mathcal{M}$  = product of  $\mathcal{T}$ 's and  $\mathcal{R}$ 's
- So  $\det \mathcal{M}$  = product of 1's = 1

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Previous example:

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.6 & -0.04 \text{ cm}^{-1} \\ 22 \text{ cm} & 0.2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\text{So } AD - BC = 0.6 \cdot 0.2 + 0.04 \cdot 22 = 1$$

Identity useful in derivations

Practical application:

error check for calculations

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... back to imaging

Ray matrix defines system

Like focal length defines thin lens

For thin lens, ray diagrams still helpful:  
visual representation of lens effect

Develop ray diagram formalism for general system

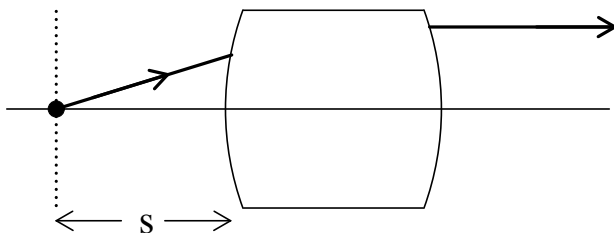
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Thick Lens Picture (Hecht 6.1)

Suppose vertex-vertex matrix  $\mathcal{M}_v = \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix}$

Where are focal points?

Front focal point = object point imaged to  $\infty$



Want output angle  $\alpha_2 = 0$   
for input position  $y_1 = 0$

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Have

$$\mathbf{v}_2 = \mathcal{M}_v \mathcal{T}(s) \mathbf{v}_1$$

or

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ y_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} a + sb & b \\ c + sd & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

So require  $a + sb = 0$

Define  $s = \text{front focal length (ffl)}$

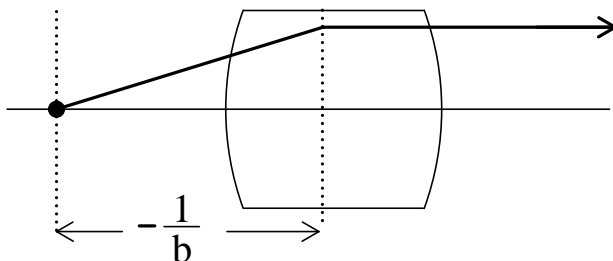
$$\begin{aligned} \text{ffl} &= -\frac{a}{b} \\ &= \text{distance of front focal point} \\ &\quad \text{from front vertex} \end{aligned}$$

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For rays emitted from focal point, have

$$\begin{aligned} y_2 &= (c + sd)\alpha_1 = \left(c - \frac{ad}{b}\right)\alpha_1 \\ &= \left(\frac{bc - ad}{b}\right)\alpha_1 = -\frac{1}{b}\alpha_1 \end{aligned}$$

Acts like thin lens located  $-1/b$  from focal point

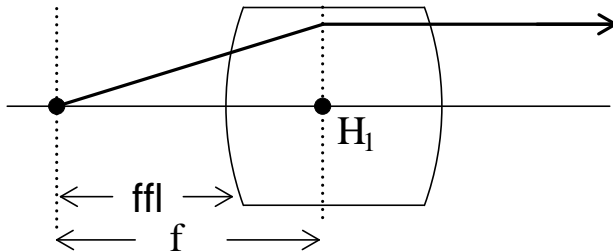


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Define focal length of system  $= -1/b$

Call location of effective lens =  
*front principle plane*

Intersection with axis = (front) principle point  $H_1$



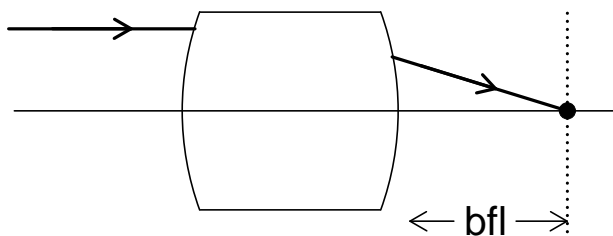
Distance from vertex to principle point

$$= f - ffl = \frac{a - 1}{b}$$

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Similar: define back focal point

= focus of horizontal input rays



Back focal length = distance from back vertex  
to back focal point

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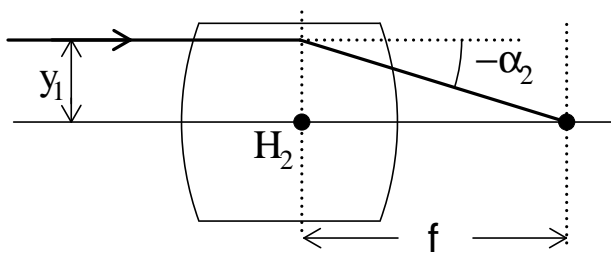
To find back focal point:

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_2 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} &= \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ s & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ as + c & bs + d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ y_1 \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} b \\ bs + d \end{bmatrix} y_1 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{So bfl} = s = -\frac{d}{b}$$

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Intersection of rays defines back principle plane



$$\text{Have } y_1 = -f\alpha_2$$

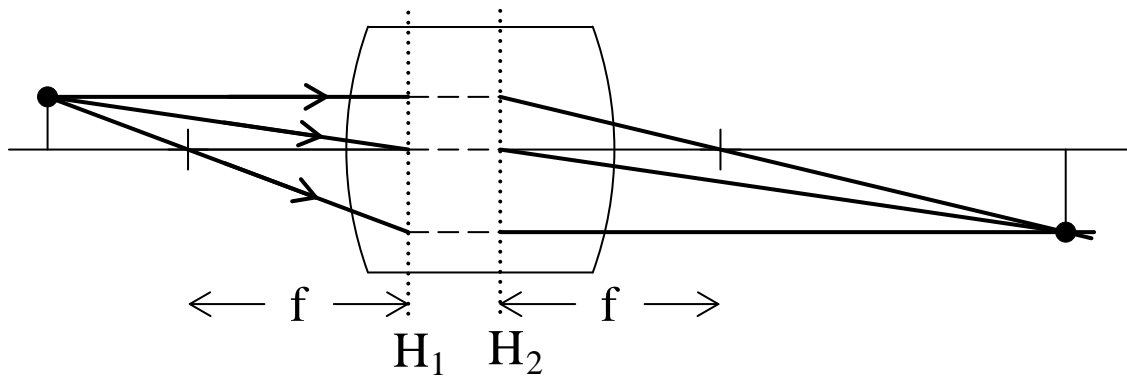
$$\text{Again } f = -\frac{1}{b}$$

Distance from back principle point to back vertex

$$= f - \text{bfl} = \frac{d-1}{b}$$

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Gives thick lens picture



Draw diagram just like thin lens

but rays skip across between principle planes

Even get that ray aimed at  $H_1$  exits from  $H_2$   
without deviation

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Can specify system with either  $(f, \text{ffl}, \text{bfl})$  or  $\mathcal{M}_v$

- matrix good for calculations
- focal lengths good for picture

**Question:** There are only three focal parameters, but four elements of  $\mathcal{M}_v$ . How many parameters does it take to specify system?

Note really one more parameter:  
vertex-to-vertex distance

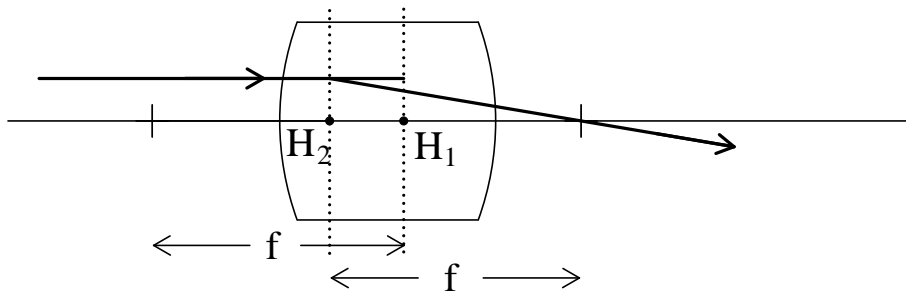
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Note, still have sign convention:

if  $f < 0$ , then “front” focal point is behind lens

Often have order of  $H_1$ ,  $H_2$  reversed  
in picture, rays skip backwards



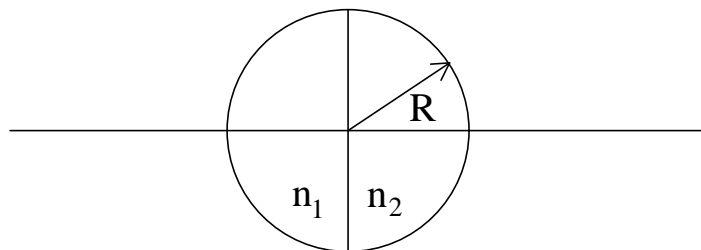
**Question:** If the focal length of a system is 5 cm and the back focal length is -2 cm, where is the back principle point?

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Finish with example

System: glass sphere radius  $R = 1$  cm

two hemispheres: front  $n_1 = 1.5$ , back  $n_2 = 1.7$



Want to characterize lens

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First find  $\mathcal{M}_v$ :

$$\mathcal{M}_v = \mathcal{R}(-R, n_2 \rightarrow \text{air}) \mathcal{T}(R, n_2) \mathcal{T}(R, n_1) \mathcal{R}(R, \text{air} \rightarrow n_1)$$

with

$$\mathcal{R}(R, n_1 \rightarrow n_2) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \frac{n_1 - n_2}{R} \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

and

$$\mathcal{T}(d, n) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \frac{d}{n} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Remember, can ignore plane boundaries!

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Put in numbers:

$$\mathcal{M}_v = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -0.7 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0.588 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0.667 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -0.5 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_v = \begin{bmatrix} 0.125 & -0.761 \text{ cm}^{-1} \\ 1.255 \text{ cm} & 0.373 \end{bmatrix}$$

Check:  $\det(\mathcal{M}_v) = 1$

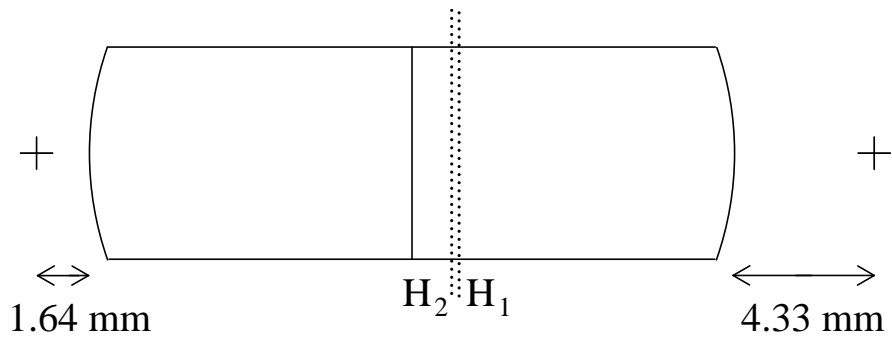
Then  $f = -1/b = 1.31 \text{ cm}$

$$\text{ffl} = -a/b = af = 0.164 \text{ cm}$$

$$\text{bfl} = -d/b = df = 0.433 \text{ cm}$$

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## Picture



Principle planes separated by  $0.2 \text{ mm}$   
system acts almost exactly like thin lens

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## Summary

- Can analyze paraxial rays with matrix technique
- Arbitrary system described by single matrix
- Alternatively, use thick lens picture

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